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Survival of the fit, not strong
When people use the phrase "sur-
vival of the fittest," do they know
what they are talking about? In most
cases, no The phrase has become
Sydney
perverted into a slogan to justify the Harris
use of force or cunning or greed in
the competition for material goods.
What is the fittest? It is not the
largest, the strongest, or the smart-
est. The two species that have lived
longer on Earth and have survived,
while strong and the cunning have
gone under. As Charles Fort has
pointed out, "There is no way of de-

termining 'fitness except in that a thing does survive.
So, 'fitness, then, is only another name for 'survival;' and Darwinism is the theory that survivors survive. This is about as useful as knowing that older people are those who live longer and beautiful people are those who we find most attractive.
If any event, survival of the fittest cannot legitimately be transferred from the species to the individual. The aim of every organism is to reproduce itself as much as possible, and not merely to live as well as it can. Bees and ants sacrifice themselves for the community; they do
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personal
not plunder or exploit it for individual well-being.
As social animals, we have been designed more like bees or ants than like cockroaches or rats. Individually we can do little; collectively, we can accomplish a great deal enough to allow us to determine our own fate, to change the course of biological evolution itself. Other creatures have natures; only man has a history.
Life on Earth is by no means a simple matter of dominance and submission: if it were, the strongest
Doonesbury
Hamster Journal, Augusta Mai■e
Monday
species would now be in control, while the weakest would be enslaved or exterminated. Survival instead has been largely based on the ability to adapt to changing conditions and such adaption has little to do with strength, force, or guile.
Different species demonstrate their fitness by surviving for different reasons; there is no one particular trait that assures perpetuation of a species. Each must learn, by trial and error, the best way to adapt to an ice age or a dwindling food supply or a new kind of predator. Extinction is

certain only when the creature persists in the same old habits.
We are just beginning to learn that our same old habits, like the exploitation of nonrenewable resources, may make us at one with the auk and the dodo; and we have scarcely begun to learn that if we change our environment too drastically through hydrogen bombs or their equivalent there will be no fit, fitter, or fittest among us to survive. Our force, our cunning, and our greed may leave only the rat and the roach to inherit the Earth.
7 Jan 1985 p3

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1974
UFOs
And the
Followers
Of Fort
By Emily Fisher

Charles Fort, solemn, gray and bespectacled, peers from a huge poster portrait pasted on the lectern. Programs distributed at the door describe him: "The man who invented the UFO question in 1919 and dealt with unknown aerial phenomena decades before the flying saucer was heard of." The association opening its second annual convention at the Shoreham Americana yesterday has taken his name, The International Fortean Organization.

"The ESP Reader,' "Magic Into Science, "In the Wake of the Sea Serpents," "Human Animals," "Sex Songs of the Ancient Latts,' "True Irish Ghost Stories"-those are a few of the hundreds of books lining the walls at the back of the convention hall, bespeaking the Forteans' investigative business: "UFOs, sea monsters, ghosts, lights on brown mountains, abominable snowmen, the Loch Ness Monster. We are interested in everything the public ignores as real because it can't rationally account for it," says Margaret Moam, associate editor of the Psychic Observer.

The Fortean organization, founded in 1965 and boasting about 1,500 members-scientists, several Catholic priests, housewives, even Nobel Prize-winner Linus Pauling-explores what established science ignores. They see themselves not as spiritualists, but as "skeptics of established science," says Ron Willis, the convention's organizer.

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Charles Fort, above, "the man who invented the UFO question" and for

whom the Fortean
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See FORTEANS, B3, Col. 6

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PEOPLE/DESIGN:
Photos by Harry Naltchayan-The Washington Post
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UFOs and The Forteans
FORTEANS, From Bl
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thinks this information is harmful to the public, but people should know," he insists before his speech. "Because ignorance hurts. Why, I know a pilot who crashed into a UFO and was killed."
Phillip Klass, another self proclaimed skeptic who has also written about UFOs, interrupts: "I have files proving for a fact that that pilot ran out of oxygen." "Prove for a fact" is also a favorite Fortean phrase.
"I studied it! Why, I talked to all the official sources. I saw the Pentagon papers," says Keyhoe, pulling at the knobs on his hands and growing pink in the face.
"This UFO cover-up beats Watergate's then," observed Robert Sheaffer, another member.
"Yeah. How come it only took them two years to uncover Watergate and this UFO thing is 25 years old?" Klass bores his finger into Keyhoe's chest.
"That's just politics," replies Keyhoe.
The society has not been persecuted so much as ignored, members say. "It's an underground thing," says Moam. "It's a very strange group," interjects Willis. "They're much more open minded than most people," says Moam. She continues, "Like me, I believe in anything." Moam's astrology charts predicted that her friends would be far from ordinary. "We're all crazy together," she says.
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The Forteans do endure,

they say with much laughter. "But we usually find that we're five years ahead of mainstream science," says Willis. "Like the Drifting Continent Theory that was poo-pooed in 1912, we championed it and now it's acceptable theory."

"Or like Fort's investigation of visible phenomena on the moon," Willis continues. 'Well, they thought the moon was dead then, and they laughed at him. And today, of course, we know for a fact that strange things are happening on the moon." Fort also, says the program, studied anomalous lights in the sky, correlations between earthquakes "and other phenomena." To commemorate the centenary of his birth, the convention calls itself "FORTFEST '74." Meeting here for three days, it will cover such subjects as "Bigfoot," "Monsters," "Pre-Columbian Contacts between the Americas, Europe and Asia," "Spacemen," "Self-Deceptions in the Name of Science" all in tribute to Fort, the man the program calls "a champion of the freedom of the human mind."

"We champion lost causes," says another. Gary Mangiacopra, 23, and a Fortean for four years, has spent the past

two years "backtracking information on a giant species of octopus and now I've found that the species exists for a fact," he says and thumps his chair.
Willis is researching "something that looks like dinosaur bones" uncovered by archeologists in Mexico and branded as fake, "But recent evidence suggests for a fact that they are perhaps 5,000 years old," he says. as
"Our data is just as good theirs (established scientists), like ice chunks dropping out of the sky," adds another nearby Fortean.
"And of course you've seen spiritualists' photography," chimes another.
"And of course you know that science has no evidence whatsoever for the theory of evolution,'" says Mark Anthony, 18, and a junior at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. "The point is that truth is not relative to each new discovery as it is in modern science." He goes on, sliding his glasses up and down his nose: "My future?" he shrugs. "Oh, the world is modifying itself too rapidly for me to hypothesize."
Moam hugs herself as she too shrugs: "All of us who believe in fairies think it's all just wonderful."

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The Washington Post
STYLE
The Arts
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1974
Leisure

People
B1
UFOs
And the
Followers
Of Fort
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Photos by Harry Naltchayan-The Washington Post
Donald Keyhoe, author of "The Flying Saucers Are Real": "I can't keep what I've discovered about the UFO's secret any more people should know."
THE WASHINGTON POST
Saturday, August 10, 1974
UFOs and The Forteans
FORTEANS, From B1
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saders against those who, in their opinion, cover up the truth.

The phrase "cover up" crops up most often in their conversation. "I know for a fact that scientists cover up information that doesn't fit the dominant theories," says Willis.

"I can't keep what I've discovered about the UFOs secret any more. The Pentagon is trying to cover up this information," says Donald Keyhoe, an ex-Air Force major, author of "The Flying Saucers Are Real" and other books, and yesterday's speaker. "The Air Force thinks this information is harmful to the public, but people should know," he insists before his speech. "Because ignorance hurts. Why, I know a pilot who crashed into a UFO and was killed."

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CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Sat., Aug. 9, 1975
Ghostly doings lure 150 here to bask in twilight zone
By Peggy Constantine
Things that go bump in the night are the
Forteans' delight.
Forteans carry on the work of the late
American journalist Charles Fort, collector of
data on unexplained phenomena such as
ghosts, ghost lights and psychic events. But
they also like unexplained footprints, the
Loch Ness monster, UFOs, and poltergeists
(spirits).
Forteans dislike only scientific dogma.
About 150 Forteans, from a worldwide
membership of 1,500, are holding their third
annual Fortfest Friday through Sunday in the
Sheraton-Oakbrook Hotel. They are dis-
cussing monsters, Nazi flying saucers, a giant
octopus found on a Florida beach in 1896,
ghosts and witches.
On Saturday night, Chicagoan Richard
Crow will take them on a bus tour of Chi-
cago's diagonal avenues. Those avenues, such
as Archer, Ogden and Milwau' Crow said
Friday, were built over Indian trails in the
early 1800s. He said all sorts of strange things
occur on them, from visitations by friendly
ghosts to hideous murders.
If the Forteans are fortunate, Crow said,
Resurrection Mary, the ghost of an 18-year-
old girl who died in the 1930s and is buried in
Resurrection Cemetery, will try to hitch a
ride on the Forteans' bus.
Mary, Crow said, is the Chicago version of
a U.S. folktale.

According to the story, a young man in an auto stops to pick up a beautiful young girl he finds hitchhiking. She gives him her address - in this case a home on Archer Av. -- and
he takes her there, but before he does, he asks for a date that weekend. She agrees.
The next Friday, the young man drives to the house and asks the girl's mother whether "Mary" is ready for her date.
"Mary?" the woman replies. "Mary has been dead for three years. She had an argument with her boy friend and asked to be let out of his car so she could hitchhike home. While she was hitchhiking a car hit and killed her. Every year on the anniversary of her death, her ghost stands at that same spot and hitches a ride home."
There are also Jewish, Italian and Mexican girl ghosts who hitchhike, Crow added.
The Forteans say they are philosophers. They are open to curiosity about anything that happens in the world.
Paul Willis, 33, of Arlington, Va., is president of the International Fortean Organization (INFO) and chairman of the weekend Fortfest. He said the group is open to anyone who has intellectual interest in "phenomena that fall outside accepted theories of behavior of the universe.
Robert Rickard, 30, traveled from Berk- England, for the weekend meeting. He said, "Being a Fortean can be spooky." But he doesn't think of it that way. "You have to be curious and have a sense of humor to be a Fortean," he said.
More than most people, Forteans are open to observation of anything. That is why they do not like scientists. "Scientists," said Rickard, "take a narrow view of the universe and dismiss everything else to prove their theories.
"Whenever we find pompous certitude in scientific research, we love to deflate it."
He said the group is not labeled oddball or weird. "Nobody really knows us well enough to label us," he said.
Willis and Rickard said they personally had not witnessed an example of unexplainable phenomena. They said they would like to see a poltergeist move something. But if Resurrection Mary hitches a ride Saturay, they'd

like that, too.
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Amazing
Charles
Fort

He was one of the most enlightened men of our century. He was also one of O the most maligned. His admirers were fervent. His scorners were so bitter that their eyes glazed when his name was mentioned.

His name was Charles Fort. He knew there were visitors from space among us long before anyone saw, or at least reported seeing, a flying saucer. He was the first man to suspect that the spiritualists might be reversedly right; that there is a spirit world but that it is right here, that when spirits die, they become B human beings.

I can neither remember nor narrate all of Charles Fort's beautiful observations and philosophies. There are enough of them to motivate the purchase of a mechanical head scratcher. There are flickering lights enough in them to give scientists fits.

One charming instance of Fort's lack of positiveness was his attitude on evolution. He said his mind was wide open, that perhaps apes and humans do have a common ancestry or that perhaps men were set down as men, on this planet by aliens or by gods.

But he also offered for debate the thought that, ages ago, some smart humans saw the way the race was developing and decided to cultivate less murderous, less industrious, more carefree characteristics. After much effort, they thus succeeded in becoming apes.

Fort spent most of his life searching old and current newspapers for reports of unexplained events. He collected stories of obvious poltergeist activities, of casual levitations, of young girls who

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seemed to be involuntary sources of "fire waves.'

In "fire wave" stories he was particularly interested. He collected them from the most reputable of newspapers. They had definite similarities. Curtains or rugs or beds or tables would burst into flame when there was no discernable source of fire in the house but when some young girl was in residence or visiting.

One such case, in Toronto, was checked by police, by scientists, by clergymen, and by a professional "magician." Each time the little girl entered the afflicted house, fires started either on the wallpaper or on the bare floor.

The "experts" watched the girl very carefully during each of these trials. She made no discernible movements. The experts gave up. One of them admitted that, even if the girl had found some way of flicking matches without being seen, she could have flicked them at walls for 5 years without their setting wallpaper on fire.

The final story given to the paper by a police detective was that the fires had been started, without doubt, by a "half-witted" girl who had a "profound" knowledge of chemistry.

Fort said the detective either forgot that he had called the girl "half-witted" or else was quite sophisticated enough to know there was no inconsistency between scientific knowledge and imbecility.

The Charles Fort concept I like best is his statement that tyranny will never die as long as people honor chivalrous intent; every tyrannical gang in history having been given power because of its avowed intention to protect somebody against something, a la Galahad.
That does explain, doesn't it, our tolerance of the Naderites, OSHA, the Consumer Products Safety Commission, and the anti-nuclear mob at Seabrook that claims to be protecting us by assuming the tyrannical powers involved in minority decisions on safety?
There's no question but what it explains Joe McCarthy and James Hoffa.

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Metro
Washington Star-News
Sunday, August 11, 1974
UFO FORTFEST
Exploring Science's Borderlands
By Mark Grisar
Special to the Star-News
Mary, a hitchhiker, thumbs a ride to her home - a permanent residence in Chicago's Resurrection Cemetery.
Three Air Force jet fighters chase an unidentified flying object in the sky, and the planes and pilots are never seen again.
A priest, explaining his approach to reports of "demonic possession," describes himself as a "devil's advocate."
These are just a few of the stories being told at Fortfest, a three-day convention of UFO buffs who are exploring the borderlands of science at the Shoreham-Americana Hotel this weekend.
HELEN TULLUS, 60, of Baltimore, described how she "saw" her mother one afternoon when her mother was "slipping away" on her death bed. Not only was the mother 3 miles away in a hospital at the time, but Mrs. Tullus herself was blind.
With a seeing-eye dog at her feet, Mrs. Tullus recounted other unexplained experiences, including her premonition of the Lindbergh kidnaping several days before it occurred.
"I don't know how or why it happened," she said, "and I'm certainly not a psychic. In fact, my interest in the Fortean Organization began only after my hus-

band began reading to me from one of Fort's books."

THE INTERNATIONAL Fortean Organization (INFO), which is sponsoring the convention, takes its name from Charles Fort. In 1919, he became one of the first to collect data on events that scientists dismissed as supernatural hogwash.

"I am a collector of notes upon subjects that have diversity," Fort wrote. "Such as . . . a reported growth of hair on the bald head of a mummy." Not all the anecdotes at today's Fortfest were quite so intriguing, but they did capture the imagination of some 60 Fortean enthusiasts.

Speaking before the searching visage in a portrait of Charles Fort, retired Marine Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe described the veiled secrecy of the Air Force whenever one of its pilots reports a UFO sighting.

"THE AIR FORCE won't let pilots talk to anyone about UFOs," Keyhoe said. He added that the Air Force fabricates its explanations of UFOs to keep the public from becoming alarmed.

Keyhoe said informed Pentagon sources told him the CIA is part of the conspiracy to suppress UFO information. "The public should know about this," he said.

There were more than 750 UFO sightings last year, according to Keyhoe, and a total of 150,000 reports in the United States since Charles Fort began keeping records of them. A recent Gallup Poll, Keyhoe said, showed that 51 percent of the American public believes UFOs are real.

ANOTHER FORTEAN, a bus driver who asked to remain unidentified, traveled from Canada to attend the conference. He described his status in the field of unidentified phenomena as "amateur meddler."

"The biggest problem with unexplained happenings is that they don't follow any pattern," he said. "There's no real way to test their appearance after the initial sighting."

The International Fortean Organization was founded by Ronald Willis and his brother Paul in 1965. "We do it because other groups have concentrated solely on UFOs. We're interested in all of the strange things that are going on in the world," Ronald Willis said.

The organization has 1,500 members. "We don't attract 'nuts,'" Willis said. "Most of our people are level-headed and inquisitive.'